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## **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to novel hydroxyethylamine compounds having Asp2 ( $\beta$ -secretase, BACE1 or Memapsin) inhibitory activity, processes for their preparation, to compositions containing them and to their use in the treatment of diseases characterised by elevated  $\beta$ - amyloid levels or  $\beta$ -amyloid deposits, particularly Alzheimer's disease.